MILLERS' HIBISCUS WIN (Photo at left)

Sandy Chun tries on the hibiscus named for her by Mr. August (Augie) Miller. Miller said he named the yellow hibiscus "Sandy Chun" - which placed second in the yellow blossom category - "because she liked it."

Augie Miller and his wife Adele again made a near-clean sweep of the 20th annual Hibiscus show at the Children's Center, Ala Moana Park in Hawaii. The Millers won 16 of the 20 awards made including all first prizes. Their red-with-white hybrid named "Henry Schurman," took "Best in Show" honors.

"I've been raising hybrids for 16 years," Miller said. "I've got 55 varieties now. You have to cull them out, and keep only what you think are best, otherwise you'd end up with thousands."

Miller, the State's foremost breeder of the Hawaii State flower, said winning blue ribbons no longer surprises him. "I don't even go down to the shows anymore," he said. "We manage to win about three-fourths of the prizes each year."

Mrs. Miller is secretary of the Hawaii Hibiscus Society, which sponsors the show with the State Department of Parks and Recreation. She is also a former president of the Hawaii Society.

Miller, who is an honorary member of the American Hibiscus Society, said his aim is to raise hibiscus with large centers. "I'm working on creating larger centers - the throat of the flower - because I think the big center is more attractive. Some of my hybrids have colors between the throat and the field (the petal areas). These have a halo effect which makes the flowers look different."

The complete list of winners follows:

Best in Show, "Henry Schurman, "Augie and Adelle Miller.

Best new hybrid, "Miller Red," the Millers.

Best lavender-wine, "Lady Bird Johnson," first, and "Jean Clark," second, the Millers.

Best orange, "Colonial House," first and "Pat Cook," second, the Millers.

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